competition with the domestic labour force, including visiting workers representing overseas Governments or international companies based in the UK. Skilled workers in these categories can choose to come in Tiers 1 or 2 if they wish to make the UK their home. *The UK* will retain the Working Holidaymaker scheme for young Commonwealth nationals but tighten the criteria."

Foreign Direct Investments from NRIs

*228. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for liberalising Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) to facilitate higher inflow of FDI from NRIs and PIOs in group housing, real estate development, agriculture and plantation; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Employment through SSIs in Tamil Nadu

*229. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a decline in employment generated through small scale industries in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the number of people employed through SSIs in Tamil Nadu during the last five years;

(c) whether Government are implementing any scheme for generation of employment through SSIs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As reported by the Government of Tamil Nadu, the number of

people employed through registered small scale industries (SSI) in Tamil Nadu during the last five years is given below:

Year	Cumulative number of people employed through SSIs
2000-2001	29,02,122
2001-2002	31,04,477
2002-2003	31,42,335
2003-2004	34,65,302
2004-2005*	35,10,908

*Upto 31.12.2004

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In order to generate more employment through SSI (which also include rural industries), the Central Government has been implementing the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana and Rural Employment Generation Programme throughout the country, including Tamil Nadu. In addition to these two programmes, Central schemes and programmes for various types of assistance for making credit available through banks, development of infrastructure, technology upgradation, strengthening of marketing facilities, entrepreneurship development, etc., for the promotion and development of SSI are also implemented.

Upgradation of National Highways

*230. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to spend Rs. 1,72,000 crores for upgrading the National Highways;

(b) whether these proposals include the 3rd phase of National Highways Development Programme to provide links between ports and National Highways;